

**OMAHA CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NEBRASKA BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 29, 2022) — In its 37<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Jaylen Lloyd** of **Omaha Central High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Nebraska Boys Track & Field Player of the Year**. Lloyd is the second Gatorade Nebraska Boys Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Omaha Central High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Lloyd as Nebraska's best high school boys track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Track & Field Player of the Year award to be announced in July, Lloyd joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Lolo Jones (1997-98, Roosevelt High School, Iowa), Allyson Felix (2002-03, Los Angeles Baptist High School, Calif.), Robert Griffin III (2006-07, Copperas Cove High School, Texas), Grant Fisher (2014-15 & 2013-14, Grand Blanc High School, Mich.) and Candace Hill (2014-15, Rockdale County High School, Ga.).

The 5-foot-11, 160-pound junior won the national title in the long jump and took silver in the triple jump at the Nike Outdoor Nationals this past season. Lloyd set state records in both events with his long jump leap of 25 feet, 5.5 inches and his triple jump of 50-6—both of which ranked No. 3 nationally among prep competitors in 2022 at the time of his selection. Lloyd, whose mother Dahlia (Ingram) Lloyd was named Gatorade Kansas Girls Track & Field Player of the Year in 1994-95 and 1995-96, swept the long jump, triple jump and 100-meter dash at the Class A state meet. He also took second in the 200 to lead the Eagles to a second-place finish as a team. His clocking of 10.54 seconds in the 100 at the state meet ranked No. 83 in the country this spring.

Lloyd has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives with the Bruce Fellman North Omaha Club in association with the Boys & Girls Club of the Midlands. "Jaylen is a special athlete," said John Gingery, head coach of Lincoln East High School. "He is not a big, physical kid, just a hard-working, nose-to-the-grindstone guy. He is a great example of doing the most with what you have."

Lloyd has maintained a B average in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Lloyd joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Boys Track & Field Players of the Year Gabe Hinrichs (2020-21, Elkhorn South High School), Tyler Brown (2019-20 & 2018-19, Lincoln East High School), and Mayson Conner (2017-18, York High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Gatorade has a long-standing history of serving athlete communities and understands how sports instill valuable lifelong skills on and off the field. Through Gatorade's "Play it Forward" platform, Lloyd has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national organization of their choosing that helps young athletes realize the benefits of playing sports. Lloyd is also eligible to submit a short video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit [playeroftheyear.gatorade.com](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).